(a) whether any proposal to introduce air service between Bagdogra and Kathmandu is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the likelihood of the implementation of the said proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement with US on Airport Modernisation

88. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the signing of an agreement between India and US to enable the Indian civil aviation bodies to get American assistance in modernising aviation infrastructure, technology and training;

(b) if so, whether any MOU was reached with US Federal Aviation Authority for developing and modernising airports and other infrastructure in managerial, operational and technical areas;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement;

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) whether US had already signed such agreement with more than 100 countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) After the agreement referred to in part (a) of the Question has been formally signed, the respective implementing authorities namely Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India etc. would be entering into specific technical assistance agreement with Federal Aviation Authority of US according to their requrements in respect of areas under their respective jurisdiction.

(e) Yes, Sir.